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ARTS FEDERATION MEETING.

The third annual convention of the American Federation of Arts was held in the large auditorium of the new National Museum Building in Washington, May 9-11.

The change of place for the convention from the noisy street floor reception room of the new Willard Hotel, where it was held the past two Mays—to the spacious cool well ventilated auditorium was a wise and welcome one. As the building is comparatively remote from the city centres, it had, however, the paradoxical result of so diminishing the attendance of idle or curious persons, which well filled the room at previous conventions, that with a very small attendance of delegates (few even of those chosen to represent chapters were present) the auditorium was at no time, save at the Millet memorial exercises of Friday evening, and two stereopticon lectures given respectively by the assistant Secretary on the Federation's educational work, and by Augustus Lukeman on sculpture, more than one-third filled. This was depressing and gave the impression of a lack of interest in the organization on the part of its members.

Surprising Incidents.

The Convention this year had several surprises, not the least of which was the absence of the president, Mr. Charles L. Hutchinson of Chicago and his subsequent announced resignation, the resignation of the treasurer, Mr. Scaif, the presence as presiding officer for the opening day's sessions only of Mr. Robert W. De Forest of New York, his subsequent election as President, the presiding of Mr. E. H. Blashfield on the second day, and the springing of a scheme to raise needed revenues for the continuation of the publication of *Arts and Progress*, and other purposes.

New Financial Plan.

This scheme, a plan introduced by the Assistant Secretary and which called for each chapter having a membership of over 100 to tax its members over 100, ten cents each annually, was passed. During the second day's session several delegates, headed by Mr. Henry Rutgers Marshall, offered a resolution for a committee, permitting the Board of Directors at its discretion to remit such portions of this tax or assessment as might be desirable, pointing out that the Brooklyn Institute, for example, could not be expected to pay $750 excess dues, for the privilege of remaining a chapter of the Federation. Mr. Andrew Wright Crawford, of Philadelphia, protested against this motion so effectually that Mr. Marshall withdrew it. His main point was that practically the same motion had been passed the day before, namely, that each chapter with a membership of over 100 be urgently requested to contribute at the rate of 10 cents a member. It seemed curious that none of the delegates who had framed the second resolution knew that the first one had been passed the previous day.

So the matter was concluded, rather indefinitely, and it remains to be seen how the new plan of raising needed funds, to cover deficits, provide for salaries, etc., will work out. Nothing was said as to the continuation of the guarantee fund, made up by Mr. Hutchinson and others the past three years, to cover the deficit in the publication of "*Arts and Progress*," or as to renewals of the subscriptions made from the floor of the Convention by Mr. John W. Alexander, Mr. George Armour and others, last year. Few of those who made these subscriptions last year were present last week.

A board of assistant editors for *Arts and Progress*, including Mr. David Lloyd, formerly editor of the *International Studio*, and now art writer for the *New York Evening Post*, it was announced, had been chosen, and also a Committee on Publication on which is Mr. Frederick Crowninshield.

The Committee Reports.

The reports of various committees were submitted—most of them, including those of John W. Alexander, read by the Assistant Secretary, as the Committeemen were absent. The most interesting reports were those of the Treasurer, Mr. Scaif, read by the Assistant Secretary; of Francis C. Jones (also read), on exhibitions, and of Mr. Howard Walker, on 'Craftsmanship.' The report of the committee on *Arts and Progress* stated that the popularity of the magazine was lessened by the practice of economics in its conduct that had so far been necessary, and the opinion was hazarded that it could be made self-supporting by proper management, which would provide for extension of circulation and increase its advertisements (which only amounted during the fiscal year to $791), and proposed an increase in the selling price. The report of Francis C. Jones, Chairman of the Committee on exhibitions, told of several collections of oils, watercolors, illustrations and photographs of sculpture by American artists, mezzotints loaned by the Library of Congress, and arts and crafts, all shown in various parts of the United States during the year. Sales, as result of these exhibits, the report recorded, aggregated over $5,000.

The committee on Craftsmanship, C. Howard Walker, chairman, requested the sense of the chapters of the organization on a proposition for a rotary exhibition proposed by New York art interests.

Some arrangement with owners of private collections, at home and abroad, to open such galleries to students and artists, through the activities of the Federation, with its guarantee of the character of the applicants for such privileges, was proposed by John W. Alexander, chairman of the committee on painting.

This suggestion of Mr. Alexander's and that made by Mr. De Forest in his opening address as chairman, as to the formation of some plan to build up the smaller museums of the country, were the most practical results of the Convention.

Good Papers Read.

The papers read this year were only seven in number, and the most interesting were those on Town Planning by Cass Gilbert, and the Housing Problem by Edward T. Hartman, while, as already said, the talks, illustrated with stereopticon views, by Msis Mechlin, on the Educational Work of the Federation and by Augustus Lukeman (the last the same good address he delivered before the Architectural League last winter) drew the largest audiences. Dr. Berthold Laufer's address on the Freer collection at the last session was also interesting and instructive.

Millet Memorial Meeting.

At the memorial meeting for Francis D. Millet Friday evening there was a large attendance and numerous resolutions of respect and affection, which had been adopted by various organizations with which Mr. Millet was identified, were read. Eulogies on his character and work were spoken by Senator Henry Cabot Lodge, Senator Elihu Root, Francis Adams and Charles D. Walcott.

The New Officers.

The directors chose on Saturday Mr. Robert W. De Forest to succeed Mr. Hutchinson as President, Mr. Lee McClung to succeed Mr. Scaif as Treasurer, and did not fill the place of Secretary, left vacant by Mr. Millet's death. The new directors elected were Charles L. Hutchinson, John W. Alexander, Henry W. Kent and C. Powel Minnegerode of the Corcoran Gallery.

BOOK REVIEW.

Schools of Painting (European), by Mary Innes. With foreword by Charles De Kay. G. P. Putnam's Sons, New York and London. $2.50 net.

This is a well illustrated, historical work on the artistic lives and works of some of the world's best painters. Every care seems to have been taken by the author to arrive at accuracy, while at the same time she entertains her readers with anecdotes cleverly interwoven with technical details.

The work is a useful one for those unfamiliar with the world's masterpieces, as well as a refreshing reminder for those who have studied them. Beginning with a chapter on Symbolism, early Christian art, with tales and legends of martyrs and saints, through the various schools from Giotto, Fra Angelico, is next discussed. Then follow chapters on the Renaissance in Italy, German, French, Flemish, Dutch and the Spanish and English schools.

There is also a well written and comprehensive chapter on American Art, by Charles De Kay, which, although condensed into forty or more pages, is full of useful historical information. It is to be regretted, however, that by some strange blunder, some artists' names are incorrectly given, as, for example, James for Thomas Sully.

NASHVILLE.

The annual Spring Exhibition of the Nashville (Tenn.) Art Association is now on in the Carnegie Library. Mrs. James C. Bradford, president of the Association, is receiving congratulations on the excellence of the exhibition. Among the painters represented are John W. Alexander, with his "Mother," and Robert Reid, who shows his figure work, "Furs."

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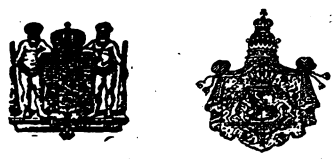
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